

the vote coming out of the committee, which would set back the schedule yet a week later, which indeed is what happened. Judge Alito was responsive. He was forthcoming. He answered more than 650 questions. Again, when people hear these numbers, what is the perspective? That is more than double the number of questions that Justice Ginsburg or Justice Breyer answered during their entire confirmation hearings.

But still, the Democrats delayed Judge Alito's vote coming out of committee. Yes, it is within the rules. All of this is within the rules. But we have seen this steady delay, postponement, obstruction. Luckily, the process continues forward. That is where we are today.

We are now scheduled to have a vote on January 31. That is the agreement the Democrat leader and I agreed to in representing our caucuses earlier today. That means we will have had a total of 5 days of floor activity. It is 8 o'clock tonight. We have had speech and debate over the course of the day, and we will have debate tomorrow. As everyone is well aware, we are given plenty of time in the Senate. We could stay here later tonight, tomorrow, tomorrow night. I said we will plow through Saturday until we get this done. It will end up being 5 days in terms of floor action.

Just to put that in perspective, for all of the sitting members on the Supreme Court today, only one other had 5 days of floor debate on a nominee. Again, we are pushing the limits once again. That is why we came forward to

file cloture, to bring closure to this process.

Throughout the entire process I have been very consistent: These judicial nominees deserve, in terms of just dignity, but also it is our responsibility, they deserve a fair up-or-down vote. I should add, also, a recent poll shows that a majority of Americans believe Judge Alito should be confirmed. So, tonight, I can say not with absolute certainty but with as much certainty you can get around this place that on Tuesday Judge Alito will get that fair up-or-down vote.

I mentioned the recent poll. That is the general sense people get as we go back to our communities talking about the hearing process and the confirmation process. They broadly support this highly qualified individual. The list goes on and on in terms of his qualifications, his 15 years on the Federal courts, his highest rating with the ABA, the testimony from some of his colleagues in the hearing, now 2 weeks ago, all of which underline his modest judicial temperament, his integrity, his character. The polls show that the American people have spoken in a fairly dramatic way to us as we go back to our States.

I agree with the American people. Next Tuesday, a bipartisan majority will vote to confirm Judge Alito as Justice Alito.

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#### ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 12 noon on Friday, January 27; I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Samuel Alito to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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#### PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. To reiterate, today we filed a cloture motion on the nomination of Judge Alito. The cloture vote will be 4:30 on Monday. We will have some more debate time on Monday. I believe we have provided plenty of time for debate on the nomination. I hope and expect cloture will be invoked and that we will proceed to a vote on the confirmation of Samuel Alito on Tuesday at 11 a.m.

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#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:05 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 27, 2006, at 12 noon.